

Recent Camp Acton emails

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bob Guba" <rfguba@comcast.net>

To: "Acton Land Stewardship Committee" <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 5:58:16 AM

Subject: The Camp Acton Main Gate

The technique for keeping the Camp Acton main gate open that has been used for years is to pick up a dead stick, usually left laying next to the road in the area where the gate end is when open, and prop it against the gate. The rope tied to the gate end is a recent occurrence.

Bob

From: tba1959@comcast.net [mailto:tba1959@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 10:03 AM

To: Bob Guba

Cc: Acton Land Stewardship Committee

Subject: Re: The Camp Acton Main Gate

Why would we want to gate to be open unless someone with a permit is using the road?

Thomas B. Arnold
12 Ellsworth Village Rd.
Acton, MA 01720
978-697-8255

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joan Cirillo" <cirilloj@comcast.net>

To: tba1959@comcast.net, "Bob Guba" <rfguba@comcast.net>, "Jim Snyder-Grant" <jimsg@newview.org>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 10:45:10 AM

Subject: RE: The Camp Acton Main Gate

Please see my email from last night. For example:

1. Land stewardship committee members who are there to leave maps, clean up and/or inspect the property (including to see if they are "locking" someone in) are,

or should presumably be, drivers of "authorized vehicles."

2. One cannot prop open the gate and drive through it at the same time.

-Joan

Cirillo, Joan to tba1959, Bob, Jim	show details Sep 17	
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I think that would be very helpful, Tom. Thank you.

Re: Jim's intervening email, it's good to be reminded of the OML, but I don't see how we were in danger. I didn't understand Jim's math. And I'm confident that this email discussion about ways to keep a moderately heavy gate open long enough to safely drive a car through and the importance of clear communication among LSCom members did not constitute deliberation of any "policy" issues. *Maybe* if we'd been debating whether the gate "should" be left open, or who "should and shouldn't" be considered "authorized" at Camp Acton, AND it was in LSCom's province to DECIDE those issues, we could arguably have been playing chicken with the OML, but neither was the purpose or content of the discussion.

Even if the discussion had centered upon whether sticks or ropes are what "should" be used to prop open a moderately heavy gate, I'm reasonably confident it's not the kind of "policy" issues the state's trying to dredge out of dimly-lit back rooms and ensure are deliberated solely in open forums after due notice to the public. So if we fall into a conversation like that in some future email, it's difficult to imagine any credible person legitimately criticizing (much less penalizing) us.

From: tba1959@comcast.net [mailto:tba1959@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 4:17 PM

To: cirilloj@comcast.net

Cc: Bob Guba; Jim Snyder-Grant
Subject: Re: The Camp Acton Main Gate

Hi All-

Unless I hear to the contrary, I will go by the gate tomorrow and cut off all string, and attach a good piece of rope to the post so that it will be available to anyone who wants to keep the gate open.

Tom

Thomas B. Arnold
12 Ellsworth Village Rd.
Acton, MA 01720
978-697-8255

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joan Cirillo" <cirilloj@comcast.net>

To: tba1959@comcast.net

Cc: "Bob Guba" <rfguba@comcast.net>, "Jim Snyder-Grant" <jimsg@newview.org>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 2:21:41 PM

Subject: RE: The Camp Acton Main Gate

Gentlemen,

I'm sorry, Tom, but, like you, my response reflected the order in which I read my emails: I saw your query and replied before I saw your *mea culpa*. Apology accepted and I'm sure you meant no inconvenience. I don't know if you're a "stick" person or a "string" person, but, as I noted in my email last night, **the string** (which in its best days barely rose to the level of rope-ness) **was broken when I was leaving**, but I was able to tie it to another piece of string on the tree and use it. (I should not have assumed the string was broken by whoever closed the gate. Although I thought it was keeping the gate open when I arrived both times, perhaps "the" stick was doing so. Or there may have been an intervening visitor. Whatever.)

Stepping back from the email exchange to consider the situation at Camp Acton...

It may be that the stick technology "has been 'the' technique for keeping the Camp

Acton main gate open that has been used for years" by one or more individuals, but I doubt I'm the only person who learned of it for the first time from Bob's early morning email to the LSCOM et al. email group. More to the point, it was far from obvious to Bruno or me. Much less obvious, say, than the broken string and that nearby empty Busch beer can we then retrieved and popped in the car to remove from the parcel.

I am grateful that I was not actually locked in (and don't think I used that word to describe my dilemma, since no padlock compounded my dilemma). **I think we should recognize, however, that as currently configured, both the string technology and the stick technology would appear to be rather half-arsed approaches to keeping a fairly heavy gate open, even if only for the few moments it takes for someone there on legitimate business to drive a car through the opening.**

-Joan

From: Jim Snyder-Grant

To: actontrailvolunteers

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 3:38 PM

Subject: [ActonTrailVolunteers] Looking for a steward for Camp Acton.

Hello Acton Trail Volunteers:

The Camp Acton parcel, the only parcel where we maintain overnight tenting and campfire spots, no longer has a steward assigned (bye, bye, Rich!).

Maybe you would like to come by at least once a month & scope out the land, seeing if anything needs to be taken care of, and either taking care of it, or asking the rest of the land stewards for help.

If that might be you, let me know & we'll talk about next steps.

-Jim, chair, Acton Land Stewardship Committee.

Jim Snyder-Grant
978 266-9409
18 Half Moon Hill
Acton MA 01720

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bruce Rachman** <brachman@vendorcontrols.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 27, 2010 at 6:25 PM
Subject: Re: [ActonTrailVolunteers] Looking for a steward for Camp Acton.
To: ActonTrailVolunteers@yahoogroups.com

Dear Jim,

I would be happy to steward the camp Acton land, It is only a few minutes from my home on foot and I run there quite often.

Please let me know if you need my assistance.

Bruce Rachman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>
Date: Mon, Oct 4, 2010 at 3:15 PM
Subject: For next LSC agenda: Camp Acton Stewardship recommendation
To: Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

Bruce Rachman recently responded to my request on the Acton Trail Volunteer list for a new Camp Acton steward. Both Bob and I recommend him enthusiastically. You may have seen his trail reports before, or noted that he made map boxes for LSC before. I walked with Bruce at Camp Acton today, and filled him on general steward expectations and practices, and we talked a lot about Camp Acton in particular. I will ask LSC at our next meeting for a vote of recommendation for Bruce becoming an associate member.

If you have serious concerns or questions about this request, I'd appreciate it if you could possibly contact me before our next meeting on (October 20) so I can plan accordingly.

After reviewing with Bruce the limits of what kind of activities he can take on before a formal appointment, and what risks he might be taking on by doing so, he was still enthusiastic about proceeding, so he will be starting right away with some non-controversial and non-irreversible activities, such as picking up trash and clearing the trails with non-power tools.

-Jim

Jim Snyder-Grant
978 266-9409
18 Half Moon Hill
Acton MA 01720

From: Bruce Rachman <brachman@vendorcontrols.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 5, 2010 at 9:04 AM
Subject: Steward for Camp Acton.
To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

Hi Jim,

I have attached a list of items we discussed while walking the trail.

Please feel free to add to the list.

Bruce

Camp Acton Recommendations for future improvements.

The items listed are in no particular order of importance.

- Raise and level the entry gate, straighten or replace the locking bar and add a changeable combination lock. I recommend purchasing 2 or 3 locks and switching the locks periodically.
- Posting a notice banning home cut firewood, only kiln-dried store bought should be allowed. To help reduce the spread of invasive insects.
- Build covered woodbins, which could be filled with local fire wood. This would allow the wood to dry and reduce the temptation to bring in outside wood. Could be done as a Boy Scout Eagle project.
- Improve the trail markings at turns, several turns are not effectively marked and should be fixed.
- Campsite picnic tables are being moved, and not all campsites have a table. We should mark the tables with campsite numbers, and post a notice that moved tables must be placed in their original campsites.

- A trail boardwalk should be considered for a wet trail section, which is a modest length approximately 20' long.
- Trail leveling or relocation in the most eroded areas, could be done with wood chips and fill.
- Minor trash cleanup and invasive plant removal should be proposed to the local Boy and Girl Scout troops as community service projects.
- Possible future projects may include deadfall collection and cutting, brush cutting and controlled burning of brush to reduce the level of tick infestation and poison ivy.

Bruce Rachman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Howard Webster** <howard_webster@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Oct 17, 2010 at 6:08 PM

Subject: I got a fall @ Spring Hill

To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

I cruised Camp Acton w my bow saw and it is clear but found a 7-8 Inch tree across the SH main yellow trail about 50 yards past the CA red loop. No trouble cutting and moving it with bow saw. Did I tell you I also have Jonsereds 24" professional loggers saw?

At CA the blue Port-a-Johnny's door spring is broken. I can fix it next by next Fri unless we're supposed to report it to a rental?

I saw a lot more Chestnut stumps than ever,
I love doing this,
Howard

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cirillo, Joan <cirilloj@comcast.net>

Date: Mon, Oct 18, 2010 at 7:32 PM

Subject: Camp Acton

To: Acton Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

Late yesterday afternoon, John, Bruno and I went to Camp Acton for a walk. When we arrived, we found the gate at the entrance next to Pope Road closed and latched (though not padlocked). The looped string, which I reported as being broken in a September 16th email to Jim, Bob and Tom A., was completely missing, rather than replaced. ("The stick" referenced in

one of the emails a handful of us exchanged on 9/16 and 9/17 still wasn't apparent.)

We were surprised to find things this way, since it seemed to contradict the outcome of the COMMITTEE'S discussion at our last meeting, as described in the draft minutes Peggy recirculated after receiving Bob's comments, and the outcome of emails Jim, Bob, Tom A. and I exchanged late in the day on 9/17.

-Joan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <tba1959@comcast.net>

Date: Mon, Oct 18, 2010 at 10:40 PM

Subject: Re: Camp Acton

To: Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

Cc: Acton Land Stewardship Committee <lsc@acton-ma.gov>, cirilloj@comcast.net

Joan-

I cut the string off and replaced it with a nylon rope. I haven't been up to the gate in a couple of weeks and I'm surprised that someone has cut off the rope.

Bob told me last week that he had LOCKED the gate.

I guess we don't know exactly what's happening up there.

Tom

Thomas B. Arnold

12 Ellsworth Village Rd.

Acton, MA 01720

978-697-8255

From: Bob Guba [mailto:rfguba@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, October 18, 2010 9:45 PM

To: Acton Land Stewardship Committee

Subject: Camp Acton

I won't be at the meeting tomorrow but I want to express my position on Camp Acton.

The main gate on Pope Rd. has a sign - Authorized Vehicle Use Only.

The reason for this is if the interior parking area were open to the public its remoteness would produce partying, trash and vandalism. Unfortunately the width of the right of way is too narrow to have parking on Pope Rd. For those who wish to hike Camp Acton's trails the access point is the Spring Hill access point at the Spring Hill Rd cul de sac or the Camp Acton main gate for locals

who walk in from Pope Rd. Authorized vehicles are those who have obtained a Camping Permit, Town departments performing their duties, namely Police, Fire, Natural Resources crew for maintenance, and the LSC steward and LSC members doing maintenance work there. The only times I have brought my truck through the gate was to do work there, at times at the request of the Steward to help him remove blowdowns. When I want to hike there I consider myself 'unauthorized', no different than any other citizen, and use the Spring Hill access point. For just enjoying a walk there places those on the LSCom at the same level as the general public and we should abide by the sign at the gate.

Bob Guba

From: "Cirillo, Joan" <cirilloj@comcast.net>

Date: October 19, 2010 12:02:04 AM EDT

To: 'Bob Guba' <rfguba@comcast.net>, 'Acton Land Stewardship Committee' <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

Subject: RE: Camp Acton

Reply-To: <cirilloj@comcast.net>

With all due respect -- and I truly have oceans of it for you, Bob -- what your email below contains are your OPINIONS, not indisputable fact or issues resolved by ACTON'S LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE. 'Though your opinions are -- and will always be -- valued by each member of LSCom, they are not, and, for many reasons, they can never be treated as, THE "policy" (or "law").

However, pending THE COMMITTEE'S determination of the relevant policy issues, we all need to be clear regarding GOVERNANCE.

One person's opinions cannot be allowed to lead to a real-life status which is contrary to (a) where THE COMMITTEE'S official deliberations leave an issue at the close of its last duly-noticed, etc. meeting; and (b) subsequent discussions and understandings among LSCom members *which are consistent with* where THE COMMITTEE's official deliberations leave an issue at the close of its last duly-noticed, etc. meeting. This doesn't mean that you, Bob, aren't wonderful, awesome and incredible (**BECAUSE YOU ARE**); it just means that, like the rest of us mere mortals, you are bound by the outcome(s) of our discussions at our committee meetings, whether they conform to your personal views or not. THIS is not mere opinion; it IS the law.

I cannot remember the last time I "just enjoy[ed] a walk" at ANY of Acton's conservation lands. If there's litter or a downed branch or limb on any trail at any conservation land that I have the physical ability to remove, I deal with it. If John's with me, I can deal with bigger stuff. If I feel I have a useful observation or suggestion to share, I pass it along, even if the recipient doesn't feel like hearing it (see, e.g., the report I sent to you, Jim, Tom T. and Tom A. on 9/16/10 re: my work/visit at Camp Acton that day, including the new 2-sided map I created for the parcel, none of which prompted acknowledgement or comments except with respect to my having been trapped inside because someone closed the gate behind me contrary to the outcome of the Committee's discussion at its last meeting).

Since I'm always "on duty" to some extent at all of Acton's conservation lands (and would be disappointed if that weren't the case for everyone on LSCom), I consider the garbage bags and tools I always bring with me, the vehicle that takes us, and myself, "Authorized" at every single Acton conservation area I go to every time I go to one. I suppose THAT is MY opinion. (It's based primarily upon dedication, but is also buttressed by LSCom and/or Town literature that says that we, as a group, are responsible for ALL of the conservation lands, notwithstanding any specific parcel assignments that are made.)

I'd be happy to discuss/deliberate with LSCom colleagues over any implicated policy issues with the COMMITTEE at any future duly-noticed, etc. meeting. (And I'll expect to be bound by the COMMITTEE'S determinations -- or lack thereof-- as required by law.)

-Joan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Janet K Adachi <jkajeg@msn.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 19, 2010 at 8:38 AM

Subject: Fwd: Camp Acton - enough email deliberation

To: "lsc@acton-ma.gov" <lsc@acton-ma.gov>

Hi, Jim,

A bit of Open Meeting Law-inspired intervention: if you think interest warrants, please put this topic on the agenda for the next meeting and have committee members who haven't weighed in

yet save their comments for the meeting. Thanks. Janet

Janet K. Adachi
978-340-0746
Sent via iPhone wireless

From: **Bruce Rachman** <brachman@vendorcontrols.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 15, 2010 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Camp Acton Update
To: Bob Guba <rfguba@comcast.net>, Jim Snyder-Grant <jimsg@newview.org>

Hi Bob and Jim,

Here is an update on camp Acton.

I spoke with the Acton Police last week and discussed what could be done about unauthorized use by teens.

They suggested the posting of a sign which clearly states the proper use of camp Acton which I put on the kiosk last week. (see attached)

The police said they would patrol the camp on weekend nights to make sure the camp was not being misused.

This Friday night the police found 6 cars and between 8 and 10 teens using the camp for drinking some under age. The police contacted the parents and made them clean up the camp sites.

I will see if the signs need to be improved to help the police.

I think this should take care of the problem, at least for now.

Bruce

Sincerely,
Bruce Rachman

(words from sign, attached to email)

Camp Acton

Overnight Camping by Permit Only

Open Dawn to Dusk

Please pack out all garbage

Patrolled by the Acton Police

Unauthorized use prohibited